

A
COLLECTION
OF ALL THE
SPEECHES, MESSAGES, &c.

Of His Late MAJESTY
Great B. and C.
King WILLIAM III.

Of ever Glorious M E M O R Y;

To which is added

The *English* Declaration of Rights.



L O N D O N :

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COLLEGE

OF

ARTS

AND

THE

UNIVERSITY

OF

THE

STATE

OF

NEW

JERSEY

1870

1871

1872

A
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Of all the
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*The Prince of ORANGE's LETTER,
to the Convention.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Have endeavoured to the utmost of my Power, to perform what was desired of me in order to the publick Peace and Safety, and I do not know that any thing hath been omitted which might tend to the Preservation of them, since the Administration of Affairs was put into my Hands. It now lieth upon you to lay the Foundations of a firm Security, for your Religion, your Laws, and your Liberties.

I do not doubt, but that by such a full and free Representative of the Nation, as is now met, the ends of my Declaration will be attained; and since it hath pleased God hitherto to bless my good Intentions with so good Success, I trust in him, that he will compleat his own Work, by sending a Spirit of Peace and Union to Influence your Counsels, that no Interruption may be given to an happy and lasting Settlement.

The dangerous Condition of the Protestants in *Ireland*, requiring a large and speedy Succour, and the present state of Things abroad, oblige me to tell you, that next to the danger of unseasonable Divisions amongst

your selves, nothing can be so fatal as too great a delay
 in your Consultations. The States, by whom I have
 been enabled to rescue this Nation, may suddenly feel
 the ill Effects of it, both by being too long depriv'd of
 the Service of their Troops which are now here, and of
 your early Assistance against a powerful Enemy, who
 hath declared War against them: And as *England* is by
 Treaty already engag'd to help them upon such Exigences,
 so I am confident that their chearful Concurrence to
 preserve this Kingdom with so much hazard to themselves,
 will meet with all the returns of Friendship and
 Assistance, which may be expected from you as *Protestants*
 and *Englishmen*, whenever their Condition shall require it.

The Conventions Address to the Prince.

WE the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons,
 assembled at *Westminster*, being highly sensible of the great
 Deliverance of this Kingdom from Popery and Arbitrary Power,
 and that our Preservation is next under God, owing to your
 Highness, do return our most humble Thanks and Acknowledgments
 to your Highness as the glorious Instrument of so great a Blessing;
 We do farther acknowledge the great Care your Highness has
 been pleased to take in the Administration of the publick Affairs
 of the Kingdom to this time, and we do most humbly desire your
 Highness, that you will take upon you the Administration of
 publick Affairs both Civil and Military, and the disposal of the
 publick Revenue, for the Preservation of our Religion, Rights, Laws,
 Liberties and Properties, and of the Peace of the Nation;
 and that your Highness will take into your particular Care
 the present State of *Ireland*, and endeavour by the most speedy
 and effectual means to prevent the Dangers that threaten that
 Kingdom; all which we make our Request to your Highness to
 undertake and execute, till further Application shall be made
 by us, which shall be expedited with all convenient speed,
 and we shall also use our utmost Endeavours to give
 dispatch to the Matters recommended to us by your
 Highness's Letter.

Next Day his Highness return'd the following Answer to both Houses.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am glad that what I have done has pleas'd you, and since you desire me to continue the Administration of Affairs, I am willing to accept it. I must recommend to you the Consideration of Affairs Abroad, which makes it fit for you to expediate your Business, not only for making a Settlement at home, upon a good Foundation, but for the Safety of Europe.

The English Declaration of Right.

WHereas the Late King *James II.* By the Assistance of divers evil Counsellors, Judges, and Ministers employed by him, did endeavour to subject and extirpate the Protestant Religion, and the Laws, and Liberties of this Kingdom.

By assuming and exercising a Power of Dispensing with, and Suspending of Laws, and the Execution of Laws, without Consent of Parliament.

By Committing and Persecuting divers worthy Prelates, for humbly Petitioning to be excused from concurring to the said assum'd Power.

By issuing and causing to be executed a Commission under the Great Seal, for erecting a Court, called, *The Court of Commission for Ecclesiastical Affairs.*

By levying Money for and to the use of the Crown, by Pretence of Prerogative, for other time and in other manner, than the same was granted by Parliament.

By raising and keeping a Standing Army within the Kingdom in time of Peace, without Consent of Parliament; and Quartering Soldiers contrary to Law.

By causing several good Subjects, being Protestants to be disarm'd, at the same time when Papists were both armed and employed contrary to Law.

By violating the Freedom of Election of Members to serve in Parliament.

By Prosecution in the Court of *King's Bench* for Matters and Causes cognizable only in Parliament, and by divers other Illegal and Arbitrary Courses.

And whereas of late Years, Partial, Corrupt and Unqualified Persons have been returned, and serv'd on Juries in Trials, and particularly diverse Jurors in Tryals for High Treason which were not Freeholders.

And excessive Bail hath been required of Persons committed in Criminal Causes, to elude the benefit of the Laws for the Liberty of the Subject.

And excessive Fines have been imposed.

And illegal and cruel Punishments inflicted.

And several Grants and Promises made of Fines and Forfeitures before any Conviction or Judgment against whom the same was to be levied.

All which are utterly and directly contrary to the known Laws and Statutes, and Freedom of this Realm.

And whereas the Late King *James II.* having Abdicated, the Government and Throne being thereupon Vacant.

His Highness the Prince of *Orange* (whom it hath pleas'd Almighty God to make the Glorious Instrument of delivering this Kingdom from Popery and Arbitrary Power) did (by the Advice of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and divers principal Persons of the Commons) cause Letters to be Written to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, being Protestants, and other Letters to the several Counties, Cities, Universities, Boroughs, and Cinque-Ports, for the choosing of such Persons to represent them, as were of right to be sent to Parliament, to meet and sit at *Westminster*, *January 22d 1689.* in order to such an Establishment, as that their Religion, Laws and Liberties might not again be in danger of being subverted, upon which Letters, Elections have been accordingly made.

And thereupon the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons pursuant to their Respective Letters and Elections being now assembled in a full and free Representation of this Nation, taking into their most serious Consideration the best means for the attaining the Ends aforesaid, do in the first Place (as their Ancestors in like Cases have usually done) for the vindicating of their Ancient Rights and Liberties, declare,

That the pretended Power of Suspending Laws, or the Execution of Laws by Regal Authority, without Consent of Parliament, is Illegal.

That the pretended Power of Dispensing Laws, or the Executing of Laws by Regal Authority, as it hath been assumed and exercised of late, is Illegal.

That the Commission for erecting the late Court or Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Causes, and all other Commissions and Courts of the like Nature, are Illegal and Pernicious.

That

That Levying Money to or for the use of the Crown, by pretence of Prerogative, without grant of Parliament for longer time, or in any other manner, than the same is, or shall be granted, is Illegal.

That it is the Right of the Subject to Petition the King, and all Commitments and Persecutions for such Petitioning are Illegal.

That the raising and keeping a Standing-Army within the Kingdom in time of Peace, unless it be by Consent of Parliament is against Law.

That the Subjects, being Protestants, may have Arms for their Defence suitable to their Condition, and as allowed by Law.

That the Election of Members of Parliament ought to be free.

That the freedom of Speech, or Debates, and Proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any Court or Place out of Parliament.

That excessive Bail ought not to be required, nor excessive Fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual Punishments inflicted.

That Jurors ought to be duly Impanelled and Returned, and Jurors which pass upon Men in Trials for High Treason ought to be Freeholders.

That all Grants and Promises of Fines and Forfeitures of particular Persons before Conviction, are Illegal and Void.

And that for redress of all Grievances, and for the amending, strengthening and preserving of the Laws, Parliaments ought to be held frequently.

And they do claim, demand and insist upon all and singular the Premises, as their undoubted Rights and Privileges; and that no Declarations, Judgments, Doings, or Proceedings, to the Prejudice of the People in any of the said Premises, ought in any wise to be drawn hereafter in Consequence or Example.

To which demand of their Rights they are particularly encouraged by the Declaration of his Highness the Prince of *Orange*, as being the only means for obtaining a full Redress and Remedy therein.

Having therefore an intire Confidence, that his said Highness the Prince of *Orange* will perfect the Deliverance so far advanced by him, and will still preserve them from the violation of their Rights, which they have here asser-

ted, and from all other Attempts upon their Religion; Rights and Liberties.

The said Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons assembled at *Westminster*, do resolve,

That *William* and *Mary* Prince and Princess of *Orange* be, and be declared King and Queen of *England*, *France*, and *Ireland*, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, to hold the Crown and Royal Dignity of the said Kingdoms and Dominions, to them the said Prince and Princess during their Lives, and the Life of the Survivor of them; and that the sole and full Exercise of the Royal Power be only in, and executed by the said Prince of *Orange*, in the Names of the said Prince and Princess during their Lives; and after their Deceases, the said Crown and Royal Dignity of the said Kingdoms and Dominions to the Heirs of the Body of the said Princess; and for Default of such Issue, to the Princess *Anne* of *Denmark*, and the Heirs of her Body; and for Default of such Issue, to the Heirs of the Body of the said Prince of *Orange*.

And the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, do pray the said Prince and Princess of *Orange* to accept the same accordingly.

And that the Oaths hereafter mention'd, be taken by all Persons of whom the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy might be required by Law, instead of them; and that the said Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy be abrogated.

I A. B. do sincerely Promise and Swear, That I will be Faithful and bear true Allegiance to their Majesties King *William* and *Queen Mary*.

So help me God.

I A. B. do swear, That I do from my Heart abhor, detest, and abjure as Impious and Heretical, this Damnable Doctrine and Position, That Princes Excommunicated or Deprived by the Pope, or any Authority of the See of Rome, may be Deposed or Murthered by their Subjects, or any other whatsoever; and I do declare, That no Foreign Prince, Person, Prelate, State, or Potentate, hath or ought to have any Jurisdiction, Power, Superiority, Preeminence or Authority, Ecclesiastical or Spiritual within this Realm.

So help me God.

The

The Declaration being read, the Marquess of *Hallifax*, Speaker of the House of Lords, made a tender of the Crown to their Highnesses in the Name of both Houses, whereupon the Prince returned this Answer.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

This is certainly the greatest Proof of the Trust you have in us that can be given, which is the thing that makes us value it the more; and we thankfully accept what you have offered: And as I had no other Intention in coming hither, than to preserve your Religion, Laws and Liberties, so you may be sure, that I shall endeavour to support them, and shall be willing to concur in any thing that shall be for the good of the Kingdom, and to do all that is in my Power to advance the Welfare and Glory of the Nation.

Their Majesties having the same Day, viz. February 13. been Proclaimed King and Queen of England, the same was attended with the utmost Acclamations of Joy.

The KING'S SPEECH to the Parliament, Feb. 18. 1689.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Have lately told you how sensible I am of your Kindness, and how much I value the Confidence you have Reposed in me. And I come hither to assure you, that I shall never do any thing that may justly lessen your good Opinion of me.

I think it necessary to acquaint you, That the Condition of our Allies abroad, and particularly that of *Holland* is such, that unless some speedy care be taken of them, they run a greater Hazard, than you would have them exposed to.

You your selves must be sensible, that the Posture of Affairs here require your serious Consideration, and that a good Settlement at home is necessary, not only for your own Peace, but for the Support of the Protestant Interest, both here and abroad.

And particularly the State of *Ireland* is such, that the Dangers are grown too great, to be obviated by any slow Methods,

* I must leave it to you to consider, of the most effectual
 * Ways of preventing the Inconveniences which may arise
 * by Delays, and to judge what Forms may be most pro-
 * per to bring those things to pass for the good of the Na-
 tion, which I am confident are in all your minds, and
 which I on my part, shall be always ready to promote.

*King William's Letter to the Convention in
Scotland.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WE are very Sensible of the Kindness and Concern which your Nation has evinced towards us, and our Undertakings, for the Preservation of your Religion and Liberties, which were in such imminent Danger. Neither can we in the least doubt of your Confidence in us, after having seen how far many of your Nobility and Gentry have owned our Declaration, Countenancing and Concurring with us in our Endeavours, and desiring us that we will take upon us the Administration of Affairs Civil and Military; and to call a Meeting of the States, for securing the Protestant Religion, and the ancient Laws and Liberties of your Kingdom, which we have done accordingly.

We are glad to find so many of the Nobility and Gentry, when here in *London*, were so much inclined to an Union of both Kingdoms, and that they did look upon it as one of the best Means for procuring the Happiness of both Nations, and settling of a lasting Peace among them, which will be advantageous to both, they being in the same Island, having the same Language, and the same Common Interest of Religion and Liberty, especially at this Juncture, when the Enemies of both are so restless, endeavouring to make and increase Jealousies and Divisions, which they will be ready to improve to their own Advantage, and the Ruin of *Britain*. We being of the same opinion as to the usefulness of this Union, and having nothing so much before our Eyes, as the Glory of God, establishing the Reformed Religion, and the Peace and Happiness of these Nations, are resolved to use our utmost Endeavour in advancing every thing, that may conduce to the effectuating of the same. From our Court at *Hampton-Court*, the 17th of *March*, 1688.

The

The KING'S SPEECH in Parliament
June the 28th. 1689.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE time of the Year being so far advanced, and there being several Acts yet to be passed for the Safety and Settlement of the Nation, I desire you would expedite them as soon as you can, it being necessary there should shortly be a Recess, both that I may be at Liberty to pursue the Business of *Ireland* with all possible Vigour, and that the Members of both Houses may repair to their several Counties, to secure the Peace, and to put the Militia into some better Posture.

I am very sensible of the Zeal and good Affection which you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, have shewed to the Publick, in giving those Supplies you have done already: And I do not doubt but from the same Inducements you will be ready to give more, as Occasions require, which I must let you know will be sooner than perhaps you may expect, because the necessary Expence of this Year will much exceed the Sums you have provided for it. And that you may make the truer Judgment in that Matter, I am very willing you should see how all the Moneys have been hitherto laid out; And to that end I have Commanded those Accounts to be speedily brought to you, by which you will see how very little of the Revenue has been applied to any other Use than that of the Navy and Land-Forces.

I must remind you of making an effectual and timely Provision of the Mony for the States of *Holland*; and I doubt not but you will take care to see a fitting Revenue settled for my self.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I will add no more, but Recommend earnestly to you, to avoid all occasions of Dispute or Delay, at a time that requires Union and Vigour in your Councils, upon which the Preservation of all that is dear to us doth so much depend: And I do promise that nothing shall ever be wanting on my part, which may contribute towards it.

The

*The KING's SPEECH in Parliament
October the 19th. 1689.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

TH^O the last Sitting continued so long that perhaps it might have been more agreeable to you, in relation to your private Concerns, not to have met again so soon: yet the Interest of the Publick lays an indispensable Obligation upon me to call you together at this time.

In your last Meeting you gave me so many Testimonies of your Affection, as well as Confidence in me, that I do not at all question, but in this I shall receive fresh Proofs of both:

I esteem it one of the greatest Misfortunes that can befall me, that in the beginning of my Reign I am forced to ask such large supplies, tho' I have this Satisfaction, that they are desired for no other Purposes, but the carying on those Wars into which I entred with your Advice, and assurance of your assistance; nor can I doubt of the Blessing of God upon an Undertaking wherein I did not engage out of a vain Ambition, but from the necessity of opposing those who have so visibly discovered their Designs of destroying our Religion and Liberties.

It is well known how far I have exposed my self to rescue this Nation from the Dangers that threatened not only your Liberty, but the Protestant Religion in general, of which the Church of *England* is one of the greatest Supports, and for the defence whereof I am ready again to venture my Life.

My Lords and Genilemen,

That which I have to ask of you at present is, That what you think fit to give towards the Charges of the War for this next Year may be done without delay: And there is one reason which more particularly obliges me to press you to a speedy determination in this matter, because this next Month there is appointed at the *Hague* a General Meeting of the Ministers of all the Princes and States concerned in this War against *France*, in order to concert the Measures for the next Campaign; and till I know your Intentions, I shall not only be uncertain my self what Resolutions to take, but our Allies will be under the same

Doubts,

Doubts, unless they see me supported by your Assistance? Besides, if I know not in time what you will do, I cannot make such Provisions as will be requisite, but shall be exposed to the same Inconveniencies the next Year, which were the Cause that the Preparations for this were neither so Effectual nor Expedition as was necessary: The Charge will also be considerably lessened by giving time to provide Things in their proper Season, and without Confusion.

I have no other Aim in this, but to be in a Condition to attack our Enemies in so vigorous a manner, as by the help of God in a little time may bring us to a lasting and honourable Peace; by which my Subjects may be freed from the extraordinary Expences of a lingering War: And that I can have no greater Satisfaction than in contributing to their Ease, I hope I have already given Proof.

That you may be satisfied how the Money has been laid out, which you have already given, I have directed the Accounts to be laid before you, whenever you think fit to call for them.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have one Thing more to recommend to you, which is! the dispatch of a Bill of Indemnity, that the Minds of my good Subjects being quieted, we may all Unanimously concur to promote the Welfare and Honour of the Kingdom.

The KING'S SPEECH in Parliament
Jan. 27, 1689.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am so sensible of the Reddiness you have shewed to Supply Me with Money for carrying on the Wars I am Engaged in, that I am glad of this Occasion to give you Thanks for your Chearful Dispatch of that Matter, which was absolutely Necessary for the Common Safety.

The best Return I can make to your Kindness is, to assure you, That as far as it will go, it shall be employed to the Purposes it was Given.

It is a very sensible Affliction to me, to see my good People Burthened with heavy Taxes; but since the speedy Recovering of *Ireland* is, in my Opinion, the only Means to Ease them, and to preserve the Peace and Honour of the Nation, I am resolved to go thither in Person, and with the
Blessing

Blessing of God Almighty, Endeavour to Reduce that Kingdom, that it may no longer be a Charge to this.

And as I have already ventured my Life for the Preservation of the Religion, Laws and Liberties of this Nation; so I am now willing again to expose it to secure you the quiet Enjoyment of them.

The Spring draws on, and it being requisite I should be early in the Field, I must immediately apply my Thoughts to the giving Orders for the necessary Preparations: Which that I may have the more leisure to do, I have thought convenient now to put an end to this Session.

The Day of the Meeting of the Parliament being come, and Sir *John Trevor* having been chosen Speaker of the House of Commons, his Majesty made the following Speech to both Houses.

The K I N G 's S P E E C H in Parliament
Feb. 21. 1690.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am resolved to leave nothing unattempted on my part, which may contribute to the Peace and Prosperity of this Nation; and finding my Presence in *Ireland* will be absolutely necessary for the more speedy reducing of that Kingdom, I continue my resolution of going thither as soon as may be; and I have now called you together for your Assistance, to enable me to prosecute the War with speed and vigour: In which I assure my self of your cheerful Concurrence, being a Work so necessary for our Safeties.

In order to this, I desire you will forthwith make a settlement of the Revenue; and I cannot doubt but that you will therein have as much regard for the Honour and Dignity of the Monarchy in my Hands, as has been lately shewn to others; and I have so great a Confidence in you, that if no quicker or more convenient way can be found for the raising of ready Money (without which the Service cannot be performed) I shall be very well content for the present, to have it made such a Fund of Credit as may be useful to your selves as well as me in this Conjunction; not having the least apprehension, but that you will provide for the taking off all such Anticipations as it shall fall under.

It's

It's sufficiently known how earnestly I have endeavour'd to extinguish, or at least compose all Differences amongst my Subjects, and to that end, how often I have recommended an Act of Indemnity to the last Parliament: But since that part of it which related to the preventing of private Suits is already Enacted, and because Debates of that Nature, must take up more of your time than can now be spared from the Dispatch of those other things, which are absolutely necessary for our common Safety, I intend to send you an Act of Grace, with Exceptions of some few Persons only, but such as may be sufficient to shew my great dislike of their Crimes, and at the same time my readiness to extend Protection to all my other Subjects, who will thereby see, that they can recommend themselves to me by no other Methods, than what the Laws prescribe, which shall always be the only Rules of my Government.

A further Reason which induc'd me to send you this Act at this time, is because I am desirous to leave no colour of excuse to any of my Subjects for raising of disturbances in the Government, and especially in the time of my Absence; and I say this both to inform you, and to let some that asserted them see, that I am not unacquainted how busie they are in their present endeavours to alter it. Amongst other Encouragements which I find they give themselves, one of the ways by which they hope to compass their Designs is, by creating Differences and Disagreements in your Counsels, which I hope you will be very careful to prevent: For be assured, that our greatest Enemies can have no better Instruments for their Purposes, than those who shall any way endeavour to disturb or delay your speedy and unanimous Proceeding upon these necessary Matters.

I must recommend also to your Consideration an Union with *Scotland*, I do not mean it should now be entred upon, but they having propos'd this to me some time since, and the Parliament there having nominated Commissioners for that purpose, I should be glad that Commissioners might also be nominated hereto treat with them, and to see if such Terms could be agreed on, as might be for the Benefit of both Nations, so as to be ready to be presented to you in some future Sessions.

My

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have thought it most convenient to leave the Administration of the Government in the Hands of the Queen during my Absence ; and if it shall be judged necessary to have an Act of Parliament for the better Confirmation of it to her, I desire you will let such a one be prepared to be presented to me.

I have only this to add, that the Season of the Year, and my Journey into *Ireland*, will admit but of a very short Session, so that I must recommend to you, the making such Dispatch, that we may not be engaged in Debates when our Enemies shall be in the Field ; for the Success of the War, and the more thrifty Management of it, will both principally depend upon your speedy Resolutions ; and I hope it will not be long before we shall meet again, to perfect what the time will not now allow to be done.

*The KING'S SPEECH in Parliament
October the 2d. 1690.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Since I met you last, I have used my best Endeavours to Reduce *Ireland* into such a Condition this Year, as that it might be no longer a Charge to *England* : And it has pleased God to Bless my Endeavours with such Success, that I doubt not, but I should have been fully possesst of that Kingdom by this time, had I been enabled to have gone in the Field as soon as I should have done, and as is more especially necessary in *Ireland*, where the Rains are so great, and begin so early.

I think my self obliged to take notice, how well the Army there have behaved themselves on all Occasions, and born great Hardships with little Pay, and with so much Patience and Willingness, as cou'd not proceed but from an Affectionate Duty to my Service, and a Zeal for the Protestant Religion.

I have already made it evident, how much I have prefer'd the Satisfaction of my Subjects before the most solid Advantages of the Crown, by parting with so considerable a Branch of its Inheritance : And it is no less apparant, that I have asked no Revenue for my self, but what I have readily subjected to be charg'd to the Uses of the War.

I did

I did at my Departure give Order for all the Publick Accompts to be made ready for me against my Return, and I have commanded them to be laid before the House of Commons; by which they will see, that the real Want of what was necessary beyond the Fonds given, and the not getting in due time that for which Fonds were assigned, have been the Principal Causes why the Army is so much in Arrear of their Pay, and the Stores both for the Navy and the Ordnance not supplied as they ought to be.

Now, as I have neither spared my Person, nor my Pains to do you all the Good I could; so I doubt not, but if you will as cheerfully do your Parts, it is in your Power to make both me and your selves Happy, and the Nation Great: And on the other hand, it is too plain, by what the *French* have let you see so lately, that if the present War be not Prosecuted with Vigour, no Nation in the World is exposed to greater Danger.

I hope therefore, there will need no more upon that Subject, than to lay before you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, the State of what will be necessary for the Support of the Fleet and Armies, which cannot possibly admit of being lessen'd in the Year ensuing; and to Recommend to your Care the Clearing of my Revenue, so as to enable me to Subsist and to Maintain the Charge of the Civil List; the Revenue being so engaged, that it must be wholly apply'd, after the first of *November* next, to Pay off the Debts already Charged upon it: And therefore a present Consideration must be had of the Arrears of the Army, which shall likewise be laid before you, and for all which I must desire a sufficient and timely Supply.

It is farther necessary to inform you, that the whole Support of the Confederacy abroad, will absolutely depend upon the Speed and Vigour of your Proceedings in this Session.

And here I must take notice, with great Satisfaction, of the Readiness which my Subjects of all Degrees have shewn both in this City, and in their several Countries, by giving their Assistance so cheerfully as they did in my abience, while the *French* Fleet was upon our Coasts. And besides this so convincing mark of the good Inclinations of my People, I have found through all the Countries where I passed, both at my going into *Ireland*, and in my return from thence, such Demonstrations of their Affection, that I have not the least doubt, but I shall

find the same from their Representatives in Parliament.

I cannot conclude without taking notice also, how much the Honour of the Nation has been expos'd by the ill Conduct of my Fleet, in the last Summer's Engagement against the *French*; And I think my self so much concern'd to see it Vindicated, that I cannot rest satisfied till an Example has been made of such as shall be found faulty upon their Examination and Trial, which was not practicable while the whole Fleet was abroad, but is now put into the proper way of being done as soon as may be.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I look upon the future Well-being of this Kingdom, to depend upon the result of your Counsels and Determinations at this time: And the benefit will be double by the speed of your Resolutions, insomuch, that I hope you will agree with me in this Conclusion. *That whoever goes about to obstruct or divert your Applications to these Matters, preferably to all others can neither be my Friends nor the Kingdoms.*

The KING'S SPEECH in Parliament
Jan. 5. 1690.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HAVING lately told you, That it would be necessary for me to go to *Holland*, much about this Time, I am very glad to find, that the Success of your Endeavours to bring this Session to a happy Conclusion has been such, that I am now at Liberty to do it. And I return you hearty Thanks for the great Dispatch you have made in finishing the Supplies you have designed, for carrying on the War; which it shall be my Care to see duly and punctually applied to that Service for which you have given them. And I do likewise think it proper to assure you, That I shall not make any Grant of the forfeited Lands in *England* or *Ireland*, till there be another Opportunity of settling that Matter in Parliament in such manner as shall be thought most Expedient.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

As I have reason to be very well satisfied with the Proofs you have given of your good Affection in this Session of Parliament, so I promise my self the Continuance of the same

same at your Return into your several Countries. And as every Day produces still fresh Instances of the Restlessness of our Enemies, both at Home and Abroad, in designing against the Prosperity of this Nation and the Government established, so I do not doubt, but the Union and good Correspondence between me and my Parliament, and my earnest and constant Endeavours for your Preservation on the one Hand, joined with the Continuance of your Zeal and Affection to support me on the Throne, will, by the Blessing of God, be at all times too strong for the utmost Malice and Contrivance of our Common Enemies.

*The K I N G ' S S P E E C H in Parliament
October the 22d. 1691.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Have appointed this Meeting of the Parliament, as soon as ever the Affairs abroad would admit of my Return into *England*, that you might have the more time to Consider of the Best and most Effectual Ways and Means for the carrying on the War against *France* this next Year.

I am willing to hope, that the good Success with which it hath pleased God to bless my Arms in *Ireland* this Summer, will not only be a great Encouragement to you to proceed the more Cheerfully in this Work, but will be look'd upon by you as an earnest of future Successes, which your timely Assistance to Me, may, by God's Blessing, Procure to us all. And as I do not doubt, but you will take Care to Pay the Arrears of that Army, which hath been so Deserving and so Prosperous in the Reducement of *Ireland* to a peaceable Condition; so I do Assure you, there shall no Care be wanting on my part to keep that Kingdom, as far as it is possible, from being burdensome to *England* for the future.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I do not doubt but you are all sensible, That it will be necessary, We should have a strong Fleet next Year, and as early at Sea as we had this Summer. And I must tell you, That the great Power of *France* will as necessarily require that We should maintain a very considerable Army ready upon all Occasions, not only to Defend our selves from

from any Insult, but also to Annoy the Common Enemy; where it may be most Sensible to them: And I do not see how it is possible to do this with less than Sixty five thousand Men.

I shall only add, That by the Vigour and Dispatch of your Counsels, and Assistance to Me in this Session of Parliament, you have now an Opportunity in your Hands, which, if neglected, you can never reasonably hope to see again, not only to Establish the future Quiet and Prosperity of these Kingdoms, but the Peace and Security of all Europe.

The KING'S SPEECH in Parliament
December 31st. 1691.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Must not lose this Occasion of returning you my hearty Thanks, for the great Proofs you continue to give me of your Zeal and Resolution, to Support and Assist me in the vigorous Prosecution of the War against France next Year, And I Assure you it shall be my greatest Care, that the Assistances you give me, may be so applied, as to render them most Effectual for the Aids you design'd them; but I must take notice to you at the same time, with some trouble, that the New Year is already Come, while our Preparations for it are not only more backwards, but those of our Enemies, as we have reason to think, in greater forwardness than they were the last Year: I find my self therefore necessitated from this Consideration, most earnestly to recommend to you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, the hastning such farther Supplies as you design to enable me with, for the Prosecution of the War.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Season being so far advanced, this present Sessions cannot admit of a much longer Continuance, and therefore I must recommend to you the dispatch of all such other Bills also as you shall judge necessary for the Publick Good.

The

The KING'S SPEECH to the Parliament, February 24, 1692.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Return my hearty Thanks to you all for the great Demonstrations you have given me of your Affections in this Sessions, and of your Zeal for the Support of the Government.

And I must Thank you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, in particular, for the Great Supplies you have granted for the Prosecution of the War. I Assure you I shall take Care so to Dispose of the Money you have given me for the Publick Occasions, as that the whole Nation may be entirely satisfied with the Application of it.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I think it proper to Acquaint you with my Intentions of going beyond Sea very speedily, which I am afraid have been already Retarded, more than is convenient for the present Posture of Affairs: And upon that Account I think it necessary to put an End to this present Meeting: The Season of the Year being now so very far advanced that it may prove of the last ill Consequence to continue it any longer.

The KING'S SPEECH in Parliament November 4. 1691.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am very glad to meet you again in Parliament, where I have an Opportunity of Thanking you for the great Supplies you have given Me for the Prosecution of this War; And I hope by your Advice and Assistance, which has never failed Me, to take such Measures, as may be most proper for Supporting Our Common Interest against the excessive Power of *France*.

We have great Reason to Rejoyce in the happy Victory, which, by the Blessing of God, We obtain'd at Sea: And I wish I could tell you that the Success at Land had been answerable to it; I am sure My own Subjects had so remarkable a part in both, that their Bravery and Courage must ever be remembred to their Honour.

The *French* are Repairing their Losses at Sea with great Diligence, and do design to Augment the Land Forces considerably against the next Campaign; which makes it absolutely necessary for Our Safety, that at least as great a Force be maintained at Sea and Land, as we had the last Year: And therefore I must ask of you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, a Supply suitable to so great an Occasion.

I am very sensible how heavy this Charge is upon my People, and it extreamly afflicts Me, that 'tis not possible to be avoided without Exposing our selves to inevitable Ruine and Destruction: The Inconvenience of sending out of the Kingdom great Sums of Money for the Payment of the Troops abroad is indeed very considerable, and I so much wish it could be remedied, that if you can Suggest to Me any Methods for the Support of them, which may lessen this Inconvenience I shall be ready to receive them with all the Satisfaction imaginable.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

None can desire more than I do that a Descent should be made into *France*, and therefore notwithstanding the Disappointment of that Design this last Summer, I intend to Attempt it the next Year with a much more Considerable Force; And so soon as I shall be Enabled, all possible Care and Application shall be used towards it.

And upon this Occasion I cannot omit taking Notice of that Signal Deliverance, which by the good Providence of God, we receiv'd the last Spring, to the Disappointment and Confusion of Our Enemies Designs and Expectations: This has sufficiently shewn us how much we are exposed to Attempts from *France*, while that King is in a Condition to make them: Let us therefore improve the Advantage we have at this time, of being joined with most of the Princes and States of *Europe* against so dangerous an Enemy: In this surely all Men will agree, who have any Love for their Country, or any Zeal for our Religion: I cannot therefore doubt, but you will continue to support me in this Work, against the declar'd Enemy of this Nation; and that you will give as speedy Dispatch to the Affairs before you, as the Nature and Importance of them will admit, that our Preparations may be timely and effectual for the Preservation of all that is dear and valuable to us.

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I am sure I can have no Interest but what is yours; We have the same Religion to defend, and you cannot be more concern'd for the Preservation of your Liberties and Properties, than I am that you should always remain in the full Possession and Enjoyment of them, for I have no Aim but to make you a happy People.

Hitherto I have never spared to expose my own Person for the good and Welfare of the Nation, and I am so sensible of your good Affections to me, that I shall continue to do so with great Cheerfulness upon all Occasions, wherein I may contribute to the Honour and Advantage of England.

*The KING'S SPEECH in Parliament
Nov. the 7th. 1693.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am always glad to meet you here, and I could heartily wish that our satisfaction were not lessened at present, by reflecting upon the disadvantage we have received this Year at Land, and the miscarriages in our Affairs at Sea: I think it is evident, that the former was only occasion'd by the great Numbers of our Enemies, which exceeded ours in all Places: For what relates to the latter, which has brought so great a disgrace upon the Nation, I have resented it extremely, and as I will take care that those who have not done their Duty shall be punished, so I am resolv'd to use my Endeavours, that our Power at Sea may be rightly managed for the future, and it well deserves our Consideration, whether we are not defective both in the Number of our Shipping, and in proper Ports to the Westward for the better Annoying our Enemies, and Protecting our Trade, which is so essential to the welfare of this Kingdom.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I am very sensible of the good Affection wherewith you have always assisted me, to support the charges of this War, which have been very great, and yet I am Perswaded, that the Experience of this Summer is sufficient to convince us all; that to arrive at a good end of it, there will be a necessity of increasing our Forces both by Sea and Land; our Allies are resolved to add to theirs, and I will not doubt but you will have such a regard to the present Exigency, as that you will give me a suitable Supply to enable me to

do the like ; I must therefore earnestly recommend it to you Gentlemen of the House of Commons, to take such timely resolutions, as that your Supplies may be effectual, and our Preparations so forward as will be necessary both for the Security and Honour of the Nation.

*The KING'S SPEECH in Parliament
March 22. 1694.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

WHen I consider how far the Year is advanced, what Preparations our Enemies make to be early in the Field, and how necessary it is, that we should be ready to meet them both by Sea and Land, I must earnestly recommend to you the Dispatch of those Important Affairs, which you have under your Deliberation.

I am very sensible of the good Affection, which you have shewn in this, as well as former Sessions, by enabling me to carry on the War we are engaged in, for our common Safety. There is nothing I have so much at my Heart, as the Ease and Happiness of my People ; and 'tis with great Reluctance that I am forced to ask such large Supplies. But since our present Circumstances makes this unavoidable, it shall be my Endeavour, That the Sums which are given, shall be laid out in the best manner, to the Uses for which they are designed.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I take this Occasion to mention to you the Debt for the Transport-Ships, which were used in the reducing of *Ireland*. It grieves me exceedingly to see such a number of Persons, who came so freely in for so good a Service, brought to the last Extremities for want of what is due to them. It is not possible for me to discharge this Debt, without your Help : And as I doubt not but you have a just Consideration of their Case, so I hope you will find out some way for their Relief.

The KING'S SPEECH in Parliament
 April 25. 1694.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE Proofs you have given of your Affection to me, and the Zeal you have express'd for the Support of the Government, oblige me to return you Thanks before I put an end to this Session, and in particular to thank you Gentlemen of the House of Commons, for the Supplies you have provided to carry on the War.

I will endeavour to do my Part, and it is from the Blessing of God that we must all expect such Success as may Answer our Desires.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Posture of Affairs making it necessary for me to be absent for some time out of this Kingdom, I recommend it to you, That in your several Stations you be careful to preserve the Publick Peace.

The KING'S SPEECH in Parliament
 November 12. 1694.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am glad to meet you here, when I can say, our Affairs are in a better Posture both by Sea and Land, than when we parted last.

The Enemy hath not been in a Condition to oppose our Fleet in these Seas, and our sending so great a Force into the *Mediterranean*, has disappointed their Designs, and leaves us a Prospect of Further Success.

With respect to the War by Land, I think I may say, that this Year a stop has been put to the Progress of the *French Arms*.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have had so much Experience of your good Affection to me, and of your Zeal for the Publick, that I cannot doubt of your Assistance at this time; I do therefore earnestly recommend to you, to provide such Supplies as may enable me to Prosecute the War with Vigour; which is the only means
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to procure Peace to Christendom; with the Safety and Honour of *England*.

I must likewise put you in mind that the Act of Tunnage and Poundage Expires at *Christmas*; and I hope you will think fit to continue that Revenue to the Crown, which is the more necessary at this time, in regard the several Branches of the Revenue are under great Anticipations, for the extraordinary Expences of the War, and subject to many Demands upon other Accounts.

I cannot but mention to you again, the Debt for the Transport Ships imployed in the reducing of *Ireland*, which is a Case of Compassion, and deserves Relief.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I should be glad you would take into your Consideration, the Preparing some good Bill for the Encouragement of our Seamen: You cannot but be sensible, how much a Law of this Nature would tend to the Advancement of Trade, and of the Naval Strength of the Kingdom, which is our greatest Interest, and ought to be our Principal Care.

The KING'S SPEECH to the Parliament, May 3. 1695.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am come to give you Thanks for the Supplies, provided for carrying on the War, in which we are Engaged, and at the same time to conclude this Session, which cannot be continued longer without manifest Prejudice to the ends for which those Supplies are given. The Season of the Year making it so necessary for me to be abroad, that it were to be wished our Business at Home wou'd have allowed me to have been there sooner.

I will take Care to place the Administration of Affairs, during my Absence, in such Persons, on whose Care and Fidelity I can entirely depend; and I doubt not, My Lords and Gentlemen, but every one of you, in your several Stations, will be assisting to them: This is what I require of you, and that you be more than ordinary Vigilant in preserving the Publick Peace.

The KING's SPEECH Nov. the 23d. 1695.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is with great Satisfaction that I meet you here this Day, being assur'd of a good Disposition in my Parliament when I have had such full Proofs of the Affection of my People, by their Behaviour during my Absence, and at my Return.

I was engaged in the present War by the Advice of my first Parliament; who thought it necessary for the Defence of our Religion, and for the Preservation of the Liberties of *Europe*. The last Parliament with great Chearfulness, did assist me to carry it on; and I cannot doubt, but that your Concern for the Common Safety will oblige you to be unanimously zealous in the prosecution of it. And I am glad that the Advantages which we have had this Year, give us a reasonable Ground of hoping for farther Success hereafter.

Upon this Occasion, I cannot but take Notice of the Courage and Bravery the *English* Troops have shewn this last Summer; which I may say, has answered their highest Character in any Age. And it will not be denied, that without the Concurrence of the Valour and Power of *England*, it were impossible to put a stop to the Ambition and Greatness of *France*.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I think it my great Misfortune that from the beginning of my Reign, I have been forced to ask so many Aids of my People: And yet, I am confident you will agree with me in Opinion, That there will be, at least as great Supplies requisite, for carrying on the War by Sea and Land this Year, as were granted in the last Session; and the rather because our Enemies are augmenting their Troops, and the necessity of increasing our Shipping doth plainly appear.

The Funds which have been given, have prov'd very deficient.

The Condition of the Civil List is such, that it will not be Possible for me to subsist, unless that Matter be taken into your Care.

And Compassion obliges me to mention the miserable Circumstances of the *French* Protestants, who suffer for their Religion. And

And therefore, Gentlemen, I most earnestly recommend to you, to provide a Supply suitable to these several Occasions.

I must likewise take Notice of a Difficulty we lie under at this time, by reason of the ill State of the Coin, the Redress of which may perhaps prove a further Charge to the Nation; but this is a matter of so general a Concern and so great Importance, that I have thought fit to leave it entirely to the Consideration of my Parliament.

I did recommend to the last Parliament, the forming some good Bill for the Encouragement and Increase of Seamen. I hope you will not let this Session pass, without doing something in it: And that you would consider of such Laws as may be proper for the advancement of Trade; and that you will have a particular Regard to that of the *East-Indies*, lest it should be lost to the Nation. And while the War makes it necessary to have an Army abroad, I could wish some way might be thought of to raise Necessary Recruits, without giving Occasions of Complaints.

My desire to meet my People in a new Parliament, has made the opening of this Session very late, which I hope, you will call to mind, and that by the long continuance of the last Session, we did not only lose Advantages which we might have had at the beginning of the Campaign, but gave the Enemy such an opportunity, as might have proved very fatal to us. And I am the more concern'd to press this, because of the great Preparations which the *French* make to be early in the Field this Year.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have had such experience of your good Affections, and I have such an entire Satisfaction in the Choice which my People have made of you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, that I promise my self an happy Conclusion of this Session, unless you suffer your selves to be misled into Heats and Divisions: Which being the only hope our Enemies have now left, I make no doubt but you will entirely disappoint them, by your prudence and love to your Country.

*The KING'S SPEECH to the Parliament,
after the Discovery of the Assassination, 1696.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Come hither this Day upon an extraordinary Occasion, which might have proved fatal, if it had not been disappointed by the singular Mercy and goodness of God, and may now by the continuance of the same Providence, and our own prudent endeavours be so improved, as to become a sufficient warning to us to provide for our Security, against the pernicious Practices and Attempts of our Enemies. I have received several concurring Informations of a design to Assassinate me, and that our Enemies at the same time are very forward in their Preparations for a sudden Invasion of this Kingdom: I have therefore thought it necessary to lose no time in acquainting my Parliament with these Things, in which the Safety of the Kingdom and the publick Welfare are so nearly concern'd, that I assure my self, nothing will be omitted on your part, which may be thought proper for our present or future Security: I have not been wanting to give the necessary Orders for the Fleet, and I hope to have that strength of Ships, and in such a readiness, as will be sufficient to disappoint the Intentions of our Enemies: I have dispatch'd Orders for bringing home such a number of our Troops as may secure us against any Attempt. Some of the Conspirators against my Person are already in Custody, and Care is taken to Apprehend as many of the rest as are discovered: And such other Orders are given, as the emergency of Affairs do absolutely require at this time for the publick Safety.

Having now acquainted you with the Danger that hath attended us, I cannot doubt of your readiness and zeal to do every thing, which you shall judge proper for our Common Safety: And I perswade my self we must be sensible how necessary it is in our present Circumstances, that all possible dispatch should be given to the Business before you.

The

The KING'S SPEECH in Parliament
April 27. 1696:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

YOU have shewn so great Concern for my Person, and Zeal for my Government, and have done so much for the Preservation of the one, and for the Strengthening of the other, by the Good Laws which have been made, and by the Supplies you have Provided for the several Occasions of this Year, That the late Designs of our Enemies are (by the Blessing of God) like to have no other Effect than to let them see how firmly We are united, and to give me this Occasion to Acknowledge your Kindness, and to Assure you of all the Returns which a Prince can make to his People.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Necessity of Affairs requiring my Absence out of the Kingdom for some time, I do earnestly Recommend to you, That in your several Stations you will be Assisting to those whom I shall leave to Administer the Government, and that you will be careful in Preserving the Publick Peace of the Kingdom.

The KING'S SPEECH, Octob. 20. 1696.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Have Called you together as soon as was possible, and I think it a great happiness that this Year has passed without any disadvantage Abroad or disorder at Home, considering how great Our Disappointment was in the Funds given at your last Meeting, and the Difficulties which have arisen upon the Recoyning the Money.

This is so convincing a Proof of the good Disposition of my Army, and of the steady Affection of my People, that I cannot but take notice of it with great Satisfaction.

Our Enemies have not been without hopes that such a Conjunction, might have proved Fatal to Us ; but as they have failed in those Expectations, so I am fully perswaded that the unanimous Proceedings in this Session, will make them for ever despair of an Advantage from any disagreements among our selves.

It must be confest, That the Business which you have before you will be very great, because of the necessity of supplying former Deficiencies, as well as making provisions for the next Year's Service.

And upon this Occasion, it is fit for me to acquaint you, That some Overtures have been made in order to the entering upon a Negotiation for a general Peace: But I am sure, we shall all agree in Opinion, That the only way of Treating with France, is with our Swords in our Hands; and that we can have no reason to expect a safe honourable Peace, but by shewing our selves prepared to make a vigorous and effectual War: In order to which, I do earnestly recommend to you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, That you would Consider of necessary Supplies, as well for maintaining the Honour of Parliaments in making good the Funds already granted; as for carrying on the War the next Year; which ought not to be less than what was intended to be raised for that purpose the last Session.

I must also put you in mind of the Civil List, which cannot be supported without your help; and the miserable Condition of the French Protestants does oblige me to mention them to you again.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It may deserve your Consideration, whether there do not still remain some Inconveniencies relating to the Coin, which ought to be Remedied; and I hope you will find out the best Expedient for the Recovery of Credit, which is absolutely necessary, not only with respect to the War, but for carrying on of Trade.

I am of Opinion, That there is not one good Englishman, who is not entirely convinced how much does depend upon this Session. And therefore I cannot but hope for ready unanimity and dispatch in your Resolutions, which at this time are more necessary than ever, for the Safety and Honour of England.

The KING'S SPEECH in Parliament April 16. 1697.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HAVING given My Assent to the several Bills you have presented to me, I am now to return you my hearty Thanks for what you have done this Session, which has been carried on with great Prudence, Temper and Affection.

At the Opening of the Session, I told you how sensible I was of the Difficulties to be Strugl'd with, which were of such a

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Nature, that I will freely own the Hopes I had of Our being Able to Overcome them, were founded only upon the Wisdom and Zeal of so good a Parliament.

My Expectation has been fully answer'd, You Entered upon the Business with so much Chearfulness, Proceeded so Unanimously, and have at last brought things to such a Conclusion, That we may hope to carry on the War with Success, in Case our Enemies do not think it their Interest to Agree to an Honourable Peace: And so effectual a Provision being made for Supplying the Deficiencies of former Funds (which is the best Foundation for Re-establishing of Credit) I doubt not but in a short time it will have a very happy Effect, to the universal Ease and Satisfaction of my People.

The Circumstances of Affairs making it necessary for me to be out of the Kingdom for some time, I shall take Care to leave the Administration of the Government, during my Absence, in the Hands of such Persons as I can depend upon.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have nothing more to ask of you, but that you would carry down the same good Disposition into your several Countries which you have Express'd in all the Proceedings of this Session.

*The KING'S SPEECH to the Parliament,
after the Conclusion of the Peace Dec. 3. 1677.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE War, which I entred into by the Advice of my People, is, by the Blessing of God, and their zealous and affectionate Assistance, brought to the End We all proposed, an Honourable Peace; which I was willing to conclude, not so much to ease my self from any Trouble or Hazard, as to free the Kingdom from the continuing Burden of an Expensive War.

I am heartily sorry my Subjects will not at first find all that Relief from the Peace, which I could wish, and they may expect; but the Funds intended for the last Year's Service, have fallen short of answering the Sums for which they were given; so that there are considerable Deficiencies to be provided for.

There's a Debt upon the Account of the Fleet and the Army.

The Revenues of the Crown have been anticipated by my Consent, for Publick Uses; so that I am wholly destitute of Means to support the Civil List; and I can never distrust you'll suffer this to turn to my disadvantage, but will provide for me during my Life, in such a manner, as may be for my Honour, and for the Honour of the Government.

Our Naval Force being increased to near double what it was at my Accession to the Crown, the Charge of maintaining it will be proportionably augmented; and it is certainly necessary for the Interest and Reputation of England to have always a great Strength at Sea.

The Circumstances of Affairs Abroad are such, that I think my self obliged to tell you my Opinion, That England cannot be safe without a Land force; and I hope, we shall not give those who mean us ill, the opportunity of effecting that, under the Notion of a Peace, which they could not bring to pass by a War.

I doubt not, but you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, will take these Particulars into your Consideration, in such a manner as to provide the necessary Supplies, which I do very earnestly recommend to you.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

That which I most delight to think of, and am best pleased to own, is, That I have all the Proofs of my Peoples Affection that a Prince can desire; and I take this Occasion to give them the most solid Assurance, That as I never had, so I never will, nor can have any Interest separate from theirs.

I esteem it one of the greatest Advantages of the Peace, That I shall now have leisure to rectify such Corruptions or Abuses as may have crept into any part of the Administration during the War, and effectually to discourage Prophaneness and Immorality: And I shall employ my Thoughts in promoting Trade, and advancing the Happiness and Flourishing Estate of the Kingdom.

I shall conclude with telling you, That as I have with the Hazard of every thing, rescued your Religion, Laws and Liberties, when they were in the extremest Danger; so I shall place the Glory of my Reign in preserving them entire, and leaving them so to Posterity.

The King's Speech in Parliament, July the 5th, 1698.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Cannot take leave of so good a Parliament, without Publickly Acknowledging the Sense I have of the Great Things you have done for my Safety and Honour, and for the Support and Welfare of my People.

Every one of Your Sessions hath made good this Character: The happy Uniting of us in an Association for Our mutual Defence; the Remedying the Corruption of the Coin, which had been so long growing upon the Nation; the restoring of Credit: The giving Supplies in such a manner for carrying on the War, as did by God's Blessing produce an Honourable Peace; And after that, the making such Provisions for our Common Security, and towards satisfying the Debts contracted in so long a War, with as little Burden to the Kingdom as is possible, are such things as will give a lasting Reputation to this Parliament, and will be a Subject of Emulation to those who shall come after.

Besides all this, I think my self Personally oblig'd to return my Thanks to you, *Gentlemen of the House of Commons*, for the regard you have had to my Honour, by the Establishment of my Revenue.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

There is nothing I value so much as the Esteem and Love of my People; and as for their Sakes I avoided no Hazards during the War, so my whole Study and Care shall be to improve and continue to them the Advantages and Blessings of Peace.

And I earnestly Desire you all, in your several Stations, to be Vigilant in preserving Peace and Good Order, and in a due and regular Execution of the Laws, especially those against Prophaneness and Irreligion.

The King's Speech to the Parliament, Dec. the 9th, 1698.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Have no doubt but you are met together with Hearts fully disposed to do what is for the Safety, Honour and Happiness of the Kingdom; and this is all I ask of you.

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In order to this, Two Things principally seem to require your Consideration.

The one is, What Strength ought to be maintained at Sea, and what Force kept up at Land for this Year; all that I shall observe to you upon this Head, is, That the flourishing of Trade, the supporting of Credit, and the quiet of the People's Minds at Home, will depend upon the Opinion they have of their Security; and to preserve to *England* the Weight and Influence it has at present on the Councils and Affairs Abroad, it will be requisite, *Europe* should see, you will not be wanting to your selves.

The second thing I shall mention to you as of great Consequence, is the making some farther Progress towards discharging the Debts which the Nation has contracted by reason of the Long and Expensive War. In this the Publick Interest, as well as Justice, is concerned; and I think, an *English* Parliament can never make such a mistake as not to hold Sacred all Parliamentary Engagements.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I do earnestly recommend these Things to you, that you may provide such Supplies, as you shall judge necessary for these several Occasions.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I think it would be happy if some effectual Expedient could be found for employing the Poor, which might tend to the great encrease of our Manufactures, as well as remove a heavy Burden from the People.

I hope also you will employ your Thoughts about some good Bills for the Advancement of Trade, and for the future Discouragement of Vice and Prophaneness.

The Things I have mentioned to you being of common Concern, I cannot but hope for Unanimity and Dispatch.

*The King's Speech to the Parliament, January 1. 1699,
about Disbanding the Army.*

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Come to pass the Bill for Disbanding the Army as soon as I understood it was ready for me.

Though in our present Circumstances there appears great Hazards in breaking such a number of the Troops; and tho' I might think my self unkindly used, that those

Guards who came over with me to your Assistance, and have constantly attended me in all the Actions wherein I have Engaged, should be removed from me; yet it is my fixed Opinion, That nothing can be so fatal to us, as that any Distrust or Jealousie should arise between Me and my People, which I must own would have been very unexpected, after which I have undertaken, ventured, and acted, for the restoring and securing of their Liberties.

I have thus plainly told you the only Reason which has induced me to pass this Bill; And now I think my self obliged, in discharge of the trust reposed in me, and for my own Justification, that no ill Consequences may lie at my Door, to tell you as plainly my Judgment, That the Nation is left too much exposed.

It is therefore incumbent upon you, to take this Matter into your serious Consideration, and effectually to provide such a Strength, as is necessary for the Safety of the Kingdom, and the Preservation of the Peace which God hath given us.

The King's Message to the Commons about Transporting the Dutch Guards.

William Rex,

HIS Majesty is pleased to let the House know, That the necessary Preparations are made for Transporting the Guards who came with him into England, and that he intends to send them away immediately, unless out of consideration to him, the House be disposed to find a way for continuing them longer in his Service; which his Majesty would take very kindly.

The House of Commons in an humble Address hereupon Represented,

THAT the passing the late Act for Disbanding the Army, gave great Satisfaction to the Subjects; and his Majesty's readiness to comply with the punctual execution of it, would prevent all Occasions of Distrust or Jealousie between him and his People. That they were mightily troubled they could not comply with what he proposed in his Message, and at the same time have due regard to the Constitution he came over to restore, and so often exposed his Royal Person to preserve; and

had so often in his Declaration promised to send all Foreign Troops that came over with him back again. And Lastly, That as nothing could make the Kingdom more happy, than an entire Confidence between his Majesty and his People; the best way to effect it was, to trust his Sacred Person with his own Subjects, who had so eminently Signalized themselves in the late War upon all Occasions.

To this Address His Majesty was pleased to return this pithy and remarkable Answer.

Gentlemen,

I Came hither to restore the Ancient Constitution of this Government; I have had all possible regard to it since my coming, and am resolved through the Course of my Reign, to endeavour to preserve it entire in all the Parts of it.

I have a full Confidence in the Affections of my People, and I am well assured they have the same in me, and I will never give them just Cause to alter this Opinion.

As to my Subjects who served during the War, I am an Eye-Witness of their Bravery, and of their Zeal for my Person and Government, and I have not been wanting to express my Sense of this to my Parliaments, as well as upon other Occasions.

I have all the Reason to trust and rely upon them that a Prince can have, and I am satisfied there is not a Man among them capable of entertaining a thought, that what was proposed in my Message proceeded from any Distrust of them.

It shall be my Study to the utmost of my Power to perform the part of a Just and Good King. And as I will ever be strictly and nicely careful of observing my Promises to my Subjects, so I will not doubt of their tender Regards to me.

The King's Speech to the Parliament, May the 4th, 1699.

My Lords and Gentlemen,
At the Opening of this Parliament I told you my Opinion was, That you were come together with Hearts fully disposed to do what was necessary for the Safety, Honour

our and Happiness of the Kingdom; and having nothing else to recommend to you, I had reason to hope for Unanimity and Dispatch.

You have now sat so many Months, that the Season of the Year, as well as your particular Affairs, make it reasonable that you should have Recets; I take it for granted, you have finished all the Bills which for the present you think requisite to be pass'd into Laws, and I have given my Assent to all you have presented to me.

If any thing shall be found wanting for our Safety, the Support of Publick Credit, by making good the Faith of the Kingdom as it stands engag'd by Parliamentary Securities, and for discharge of the Debts occasion'd by the War, or towards the advancing of Trade, the suppressing of Vice, and the employing the Poor, which were all the things I Proposed to your Consideration when we met first, I cannot doubt, but effectual Care will be taken of them next Winter; and I wish no Inconvenience may happen in the mean time.

The King's Speech to the Parliament, Novr 16, 1699.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Hope you will not think I have called you too soon out of your Countries, if you consider that our common Security requires a farther Provision should be made for the Safety of the Kingdom by Sea and Land, before we are at the End of what was granted for that purpose the last Sessions. And when you enter upon this Business, I believe you will think it necessary to take Care of the Repairs of the Ships, and of the Fortifications; without which our Fleet cannot be safe when it is in Harbour.

I cannot omit to put you in Mind of another Matter, in which so great a number of my Subjects is concerned, and wherein the Honour of the Kingdom, and the Faith of Parliaments is so far engaged, that our future Security seems to depend upon it, I mean the making good the Deficiencies of the Funds, and the discharging the Debts contracted by reason of the War.

And till we may be so happy as to see the publick Debts paid, I shall hope that no Session will end without something done towards lessening them. While I am speaking to you on this Head, I think my self oblig'd to mention

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with a very particular Concern, a Debt which is owing to the Prince of *Denmark*, the state whereof I have ordered to be laid before you.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

These things are of such Importance, that I must earnestly recommend them to your Consideration, and desire you to provide the necessary Supplies.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

There is nothing I should more rejoice in, than that I were not under the Necessity of so often asking Aids of my People: But as the Reason of it is evident, because the Funds formerly applied to defray the Publick Expence, are now anticipated for Payment of the Debts of the Kingdom; so it is my Satisfaction that you all see that nothing of what is demanded, is for any personal use of mine: And I do faithfully assure you, that no part of what is given, shall be diverted from any Purpose for which it is design'd.

I believe the Nation is already sensible of the good Effects of Peace, by the manifest increase of Trade, which I shall make it my Business to encourage by all means in my Power. Probably it might receive an Advantage, if some good Bill were prepared for the more Effectual preventing and punishing Unlawful and Clandestine Trading, which does not only tend to defraud the Publick, but prejudices the fair Merchant, and discourages our own Manufactures.

The Increase of the Poor is become a Burden to the Kingdom, and their loose and idle Life does in some measure contribute to that Depravation of Manners which is complain'd of (I fear with too much Reason) Whether the Ground of this Evil be from Defects of Laws already made, or in the Execution of them, deserves your Consideration. As it is an indispensable Duty, That the Poor, who are not able to help themselves, should be maintain'd, so I cannot but think it extremely desirable, that such as are able and willing should not want Employment; and such as are obstinate and unwilling should be compell'd to Labour.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have a full Assurance of the Good Affections of my People, which I shall endeavour to preserve by a Constant Care of their just Rights and Liberties, by maintaining the Established Religion, by seeing the Course of Justice kept steady and equal, by countenancing Vertue, and discouraging Vice, and by declining no Difficulties nor Dangers where their Welfare and Prosperity may be concerned. These are my Resolutions, and I am perswaded that you are come together with purposes on your part suitable to these of mine. Since then our Aims are only for the General Good, let us act with Confidence in one another, which will not fail, by God's Blessing, to make me a happy King, and you a happy flourishing People.

The House of Commons Representation.

That being highly sensible there was nothing more necessary for the Peace and Prosperity of the Kingdom, the quieting of Peoples Minds, and disappointing his Enemies Designs, than a mutual and entire Confidence between him and his Parliament; they did esteem it their greatest Misfortune, that after having so amply provided for his and the Governments Security, both by Sea and Land, any Jealousie or Mistrust had been raised of their Duty and Affection to him and his People; and begged leave to represent to him, that it would greatly conduce to the Continuing and Establishing an entire Confidence between him and them, That he would shew Marks of his high Displeasure towards all that should presume to misrepresent their Proceedings to him; and they on their part, being duly sensible of his constant Concern to maintain their Civil and Religious Rights, in Defence whereof he had so often exposed his Person, would do all they could to prevent and discourage all false Rumours and Reports Respecting on his Majesty's Government, whereby to create any Misunderstanding between him and his Subjects.

The King's Answer.

Gentlemen,

MY Parliaments have done so great Things for me, and have upon all proper Occasions express'd so great a Sense of their Kindness; and my Opinion has been so often declared,

declared, That the Happiness of any *English* King depends upon an entire Correspondence between him and his Parliament; that it may not seem strange for me to assure you, That no Person has ever yet dared to go about to misrepresent to me the Proceedings of either House: Had I found any such, they would immediately have felt the highest Marks of my Displeasure. It is a Justice I owe, not only to my Parliament, but to every one of my Subjects, To judge of them by their Actions; and this Rule I will steadily pursue: If any shall attempt hereafter to put me upon other Methods by Calumnies or Misrepresentations, they will not only fail of Success, but shall be look'd upon and treated by me as one of my worst Enemies.

Gentlemen,

I am pleased to see by your Address, that you have the same thoughts of the great Advantage which will ensue to the Kingdom from our mutual Confidence; as I express'd to both Houses at the Opening of this Session: I take very kindly the Assurance you give me, of using your utmost Care and Endeavours to prevent and discourage all false Rumours and Reports reflecting upon me and my Government; and I faithfully promise you, that no Actions of mine shall give a just Ground for any Misunderstanding between Me and my People.

The King's Speech in Parliament upon the Death of the Duke of Gloucester, Feb. 10. 1701.

My Lords and Gentlemen.

OUR great Misfortune in the Death of the Duke of Gloucester, hath made it absolutely necessary that there should be a further Provision for the Succession of the Crown in the Protestant Line after me and the Princess; the Happiness of the Nation and the security of our Religion, which is our chiefest Concern, seems so much to depend upon this, that I cannot doubt but it will meet with a general Concurrence, and I earnestly recommend it to your early and effectual Consideration.

The Death of the late King of *Spain*, with the Declaration of his Successor to that Monarchy, has made so great an Alteration in the Affairs abroad, that I must desire you very maturely to consider their present State, and I make

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no doubt but your Resolutions thereupon will be such, as shall be most conducing to the Interest and Safety of *England*, the Preservation of the Protestant Religion in general, and the Peace of *Europe*.

These Things are of such Weight, that I have thought them most proper for the Consideration of a new Parliament, to have the more immediate Sense of the Kingdom in so great Conjunction.

I must desire of you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, such Supplies as you shall judge necessary for the Service of the Current Year, and I must particularly put you in mind of the Deficiencies and publick Debts occasion'd by the late War, that are yet unprovided for.

I am obliged farther to recommend to you, that you would inspect the Condition of the Fleet, and consider what Repairs and Augmentations may be requisite for the Navy, which is the great Bulwark of the *English* Nation, and ought most especially in this Conjunction to be put into a good Condition, and that you would also consider what is proper for the better Security of those Places where the Ships are laid up in Winter.

The Regulation and Improvement of our Trade is of so publick Concern, that I hope it will ever have your serious Thoughts; and if you can find proper Means of setting the Poor at Work, you will ease your selves of a very great Burden, and at the same time add so many useful Hands to be imploy'd in our Manufactures, and other publick Occasions.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Hope there will be such an Agreement and Vigour in your Resolutions, you shall take upon the import Matters now before you, as may make it appear we are firmly united among our Selves: And in my Opinion, nothing can contribute more to our Safety at Home, or to our being Considerable Abroad.

King's Speech in Parliament upon settling the Succession,
1701.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Return you my hearty Thanks for the Care you have taken to establish the Succession of the Crown in the
Progre-

Protestant Line; and I must not lose this Occasion of acquainting you, that I am likewise extremely sensible of your repeated Assurances of supporting me in such Alliances as shall be most proper for the Preservation of the Liberty of *Europe*, and for the Security of *England* and *Holland*. Your ready Compliance with my Desires as to the Succours for the States General, is also a very great Satisfaction to me, as well as a great Advantage of the Common Cause: And as I have nothing so much at Heart as the Preservation of the Liberty of *Europe*, and the Honour and Interest of *England*, so I make no doubt of attaining those great Ends, by the Blessing of God, and the continuance of your cheerful Concurrence.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Season of the Year makes it necessary to have a speedy Recess, and the Posture of Affairs abroad does absolutely require my Presence, for the Encouragement of our Allies, and for the perfecting of such Alliances, as may be most effectual for the common Interest, and therefore I must recommend a Dispatch of the publick Business, especially of those Matters that are of the greatest Importance.

King's Speech at the conclusion of the Session.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE Sessions being now come to a Conclusion, I must return you my hearty Thanks for the great Zeal you have express'd for the publick Service, and your ready Compliance with those Things which I recommended to you at the Opening of the Parliament: And I must thank you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, in particular, both for your Dispatches of those necessary Supplies you have granted to the Publick Occasions, and for the Encouragement you have given me to enter into Alliances for the Preservation of the Liberty of *Europe*, and the Support of the Confederacy, in which, as it shall be my Care not to put the Nation to any unnecessary Expence, so I make no doubt, that whatsoever shall be done, during your Recess, for the Advantage of the common Cause in this Matter, will have your Approbation at our Meeting again in the Winter.

My

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I shall conclude with recommending to you all the Discharge of your Duties in your respective Countries, that the Peace of the Kingdom may be secured by your Vigilance and Care in your respective Stations.

The King's Speech to the States, July 15. 1701.

High and Mighty Lords,

I Always come into this Country with Joy, but more especially in this dangerous Conjunction of Affairs, because I foresee my Presence will be necessary for the Service of the State. I was in Hopes, and desired to have pass'd the rest of my Days in Repose and Peace, and after the End of my Days to have left this State in a quiet and flourishing Condition. To which End I have always laboured, particularly after the Conclusion of the last Peace. But since there have happen'd such great Alterations in the Affairs of *Europe*, that we know not what will be the Disposal of Divine Providence concerning them. Nevertheless, I can sincerely assure your High Puissances, whether Affairs may be accommodated without any further Embroilments, or whether we must be obliged to take Arms again, I persist in the same Affection, and the same Zeal for the Service and Prosperity of these Provinces, and will contribute, as far as lies in my Power, whatever may tend to advance the Welfare of this State, the Maintenance of their Liberties and Religion, and their particular Security, as well as that of *Europe*. I am overjoy'd to find all Things still in a quiet Condition, which, next to the Blessing of the Almighty, must be ascribed to the speedy and unanimous Resolutions of your High Puissances to put your selves in a Posture of Defence. I am perswaded, that the respective Confederates will contribute strenuously towards it, which I look upon as the only Means to prevent a War; or, in case of a Rupture, to defend the State from the Danger that threatens it. 'Tis a great Satisfaction to me, that I can assure your High Puissances, not only of my Affection, but of the whole *English* Nation; and that they are ready to assist this State, and strongly to contribute toward their Defence, and to whatever may tend to the common Security: And this is what your High Puissances may be fully convinced of.

I hope

I hope the Great God will bless the Means which you have made use of, either by way of Negotiation, or by Force of Arms in case of a Rupture, to attain the End proposed; that is to say, reasonable Security for the Common Cause; and particularly the Preservation of this State in their Liberties and Religion. There is nothing which I wish with more Fervency, and I shall contribute towards it whatever lies in my Power. This is what I thought necessary to say at present, only that I desire the Continuance of your High Puissances Affection and Amity.

The King's Speech to both Houses of Parliament, Dec. 31. 1702.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Promise my self, you are met together, full of the just Sense of the common Danger of Europe, and that Resentment of the late Proceeding of the French King, which has been so fully and universally expressed in the loyal and seasonable Addresses of my People. The crowning and setting up the pretended Prince of Wales for King of England, is not only the highest Indignity offered to me and the Nation, but does so nearly concern every Man, who has a Regard for the Protestant Religion, or the present and future Quiet and Happiness of the Country, that I need not press you to lay it seriously to Heart, and to consider what further effectual means may be used for securing the Succession of the Crown in the Protestant Line, and extinguishing the hopes of all Pretenders, and their open or secret Abettors. By the French King's placing his Grandson on the Throne of Spain, he is in a Condition to oppress the Rest of Europe, unless speedy and effectual Measures be taken. Under this pretence, he is become the real Master of the whole Spanish Monarchy; he has made it to be entirely depending on France, and disposes of it, as of his own Dominions, and by that means he has surrounded his Neighbours in such a manner, that the Name of Peace may be said to continue, yet they are put to the Expence and Inconveniences of War.

This must affect England in the nearest and most sensible Manner, in respect to our Trade, which will soon become precarious in all the valuable Branches of it; in respect to our Peace and Safety at Home, which we cannot hope shall long continue, and in respect to that part which England ought to take in the Preservation of the Liberty of Europe. In

In order to obviate the general Calamity, with which the Rest of *Christendom* is threatned by this exorbitant Power of *France*, I have concluded several Alliances, according to the Encouragement given me by both Houses of Parliament, which I will direct shall be laid before you, and which I do not doubt, you will enable me to make good.

There are some other Treaties still depending that shall be likewise communicated to you as soon as they are perfected.

It is fit I should tell you the Eyes of all *Europe* are upon this Parliament; all Matters are at a stand, 'till your Resolutions are known, and therefore no time ought to be lost.

You have yet an Opportunity, by God's Blessing, to secure to you and your Posterity the quiet Enjoyment of your Religion and Liberties, if you are not wanting to your Selves, but will exert the ancient Vigour of the *English* Nation; but I tell you plainly, my Opinion is, if you do not lay hold on this Occasion, you have no Reason to hope for another.

In order to do your Part, it will be necessary to have a great Strength at Sea, and to provide for the Security of our Ships in Harbour, and also that there be such a Force at Land, as is expected in proportion to the force of our Allies.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I do recommend these Matters unto you, with that Concern and Earnestness which their Importance requires; at the same time, I cannot but press you to take care of the publick Credit, which cannot be preserved but by keeping sacred that Maxim; That they shall never be Losers, who trust to a Parliamentary Security. It is always with Regret, when I do ask Aids of my People, but you will observe, that I desire nothing, which relates to any personal Expence of mine, I am only pressing you to do all you can for your own Safety and Honour, at so critical and dangerous a time, and am willing that what is given, should be wholly appropriated to the Purposes for which it is intended.

And since I am speaking on this Head, I think it proper to put you in mind, that during the late War, I ordered the Accounts to be laid Yearly before the Parliament, and also gave my Assent to several Bills for taking the publick Accounts, that my Subjects might have satisfaction how the

the Money given for the War was applied; and I am willing that matter may be put in any farther way of Examination, that it may appear whether there were any Misapplication and Mismanagements, or whether the Debt that remains upon us has really arisen from the shortness of the Supplies, or the Deficiency of the Funds.

I have already told you, how necessary Dispatch will be for carrying on that great publick Business whereon our Safety, and all that is valuable to us depends; I hope what Time can be spared, will be employed about those other very desirable Things, which I have so often recommended from the Throne, I mean, the forming some good Bills for employing the Poor, encouraging of Trade, and the further suppressing of Vice.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I hope you are come together determined to avoid all manner of Disputes and Differences, and resolved to act with a general and hearty Concurrence for promoting the common Cause, which alone can makethis a happy Session.

I should think it as great a Blessing as could befall *England*, if I could observe you as much inclin'd to lay aside those unhappy fatal Animosities, which divide and weaken you; as I am disposed to make all my Subjects safe and easie as to any, even the highest Offences, committed against me.

Let me conjure you to disappoint the only Hopes of our Enemies, by your Unanimity. I have shewn, and will always shew how desirous I am to be the Common Father of all my People; do you in like manner lay aside Parties and Divisions; let there be no other Distinction heard of among us for the future, but of those who are for the *Protestant Religion* and the *Present Establishment*, and of those, who mean a *Popish Prince* and a *French Government*.

I will only add this, if you do in good earnest desire to see *England* hold the Ballance of *Europe*, and to be indeed at the Head of the *Protestant Interest*, it will appear by your right improving the present Opportunity.

F I N I S.